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Board of Examiners

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STATE OF NEW JERSEY
DEPARTMENT OF LAW & PUBLIC SAFETY
DIVISION OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS
BOARD OF EXAMINERS OF ELECTRICAL
CONTRACTORS

IN THE MATTER OF

Gregory J. Cardillo License No. 34EI01500000

TO PRACTICE ELECTRICAL CONTRACTING IN THE STATE OF NEW JERSEY

Administrative Action

FINAL ORDER
OF DISCIPLINE

This matter was opened to the New Jersey State Board of Examiners of Electrical Contractors ("Board") upon receipt of information which the Board has reviewed and on which the following findings of fact and conclusions of law are made:

FINDINGS OF FACT

- 1. Gregory Cardillo ("respondent") is an electrical contractor licensed in the State of New Jersey and has been a licensee at all times relevant hereto.
- 2. Pursuant to N.J.S.A. 45:5A-13.1 et seq., all licensees are required to complete a minimum of 34 credits of continuing education requirements as a condition for triennial license renewal which shall include a 10-hour course of study relating to the

most recent edition of the National Electrical Code, nine hours of which shall pertain to code and one hour of which shall pertain to applicable State statues and regulations; and 24 hours of instruction approved by the Board covering various electrical related subjects.

- 3. Respondent indicated on his 2006-2009 triennial renewal that he will have completed his continuing education requirement for the 2006-2009 triennial renewal period by June 30, 2006.
- 4. On or about March 18, 2008, the Board conducted a continuing education random audit involving approximately ten percent of its licensees pursuant to N.J.A.C. 12:31-1.7(f). Respondent was selected for the audit.
- 5. The Board sent a letter to respondent by regular mail, dated March 18, 2008, to respondent's address of record with the Board. In the letter, the Board required respondent to furnish a copy of his continuing education certificates for the 2006-2009 biennial renewal period. The letter required respondent to submit a written explanation to the Board in the event he failed to complete his 2006-2009 continuing education requirement. A response was to be submitted to the Board office within ten (10) business days.
- 6. In response to that letter, respondent provided the documents which were received by the Board on or about March 28, 2008, which indicate that respondent did not complete any of the 24 hours of electrical related course hours and did not complete any of the 10 course hours relating to the National Electrical Code and State statues and regulations.

DISCUSSION

Based upon the above facts, the Board issued a Provisional Order of Discipline filed on February 6, 2009 for failure to complete all of the required continuing education prior to renewal of his license. In response to the Provisional Order, respondent sent a letter of explanation that he believed he was exempt since he first obtained his license in 2002, and now understands that the exemption applied only to the first renewal cycle. 2003 - 2006, after licensure. Respondent's letter also explained that he has some serious financial and medical problems which have caused him to be on medical leave from his full-time job, and the loss of both of his parents in a short period of time as well as his own divorce and family obligations have caused him to struggle "financially to keep food on the table and a roof over our heads. The Board was persuaded that respondent made an honest mistake in believing that he was exempt and therefore would not impose the \$2,500.00 penalty for falsifying his renewal application. In addition, the Board was also persuaded that respondent had serious mitigating circumstances and decided that it would allow respondent to make monthly payments to satisfy his obligation of \$3,000.00, but that it would still require respondent to complete all the continuing education requirements for the 2006-2009 triennial renewal period as well as the next triennial renewal period, 2009-2012.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

The above findings of fact provide grounds for disciplinary action against respondent's license, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 45:1-21(h), in that respondent has failed to comply with the provisions of an act or regulation administered by the Board,

specifically, <u>N.J.S.A.</u> 45:5A-13.1 <u>et seq.</u>, and <u>N.J.A.C.</u> 13:31-1.7(a), (b) and (c) <u>et seq.</u>, in that respondent failed to successfully complete 10 (9+1) credits of code and laws, 24 credits of continuing education. The Board determined that there was not a sufficient basis to dismiss its decision to sanction respondent for failing to complete all of the continuing educational requirements, but it did find a sufficient basis to modify its decision concerning the method of payment based upon the mitigating circumstances described by respondent. Based on its review of all of the information provided by respondent, the Board believes that no further proceedings are necessary.

ACCORDINGLY, IT IS on this $20^{\sqrt{h}}$ day of γ , 2009, ORDERED that:

- 1. A public reprimand is to be imposed upon respondent, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 45:1-22, for the violation of N.J.S.A. 45:5A-13.1 et-seq, and N.J.A.C. 13:1-1.7(a), (b) and (c).
- 2. Respondent is hereby assessed a civil penalty, pursuant to <u>N.J.S.A.</u> 45:1-22, in the amount of \$1,500.00 for failing to complete the required 10 hour (9+1) course of study relating to code and law for the 2006-2009 biennial period by June 30, 2006, in violation of <u>N.J.S.A.</u> 45:5A-13.1 <u>et seq.</u> and <u>N.J.A.C.</u> 13:1-1.7(b) and (c).
- 3. Respondent is hereby assessed a civil penalty, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 45:1-22, in the amount of \$62.50 for each hour of continuing education that respondent has failed to complete for the 2006-2009 triennial period by June 30, 2006, in violation of N.J.S.A. 45:5A-13.1 and N.J.A.C. 13:1-1.7(b) and (c) for a total of \$1,500.

- 4. The aggregate penalty totaling \$3,000.00 shall be paid by money order or certified check made payable to the State of New Jersey and delivered to the Board of Examiners of Electrical Contractors, P.O. Box 45006, 124 Halsey Street, Sixth Floor, Newark, NJ 07101.
- 5. Respondent shall be permitted to make 10 monthly payments in the amount \$300.00 per month beginning ten (10) days after the entry of this Order and continuing for the following nine (9) months on the 15th day of the month.
- 6. Should respondent fail to make any installment payment within ten (10) days of the due date, the entire remaining balance shall become immediately due and payable without further notice and with interest calculated in accordance with R. 4:42-11 from the date of default, and with the State's costs of collection included. In addition to the relief provided for in this paragraph, this default shall also entitle the Board to file a Certificate of Debt, including the applicable interest permitted by the New Jersey Court Rules and to make application to a court of competent jurisdiction for an order directing compliance and any other relief in aid of litigant's rights, including the imposition of attorney's fees for said application, or to make any other application as provided by law.
- 6. Within six (6) months from the date of this Order, respondent is hereby required to submit the appropriate documentation demonstrating, to the satisfaction of the Board, that he has completed all missing course hours, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 45:1-22. Failure to comply shall result in the automatic and immediate suspension of respondent's license to practice electrical contracting in New Jersey without further

order until such time as respondent submits satisfactory proof of completion of all required hours of continuing education.

7. No later than ten (10) days after the entry of this Final Order of Discipline, respondent is hereby required to submit all documentation of continuing education courses taken to date for the next renewal cycle, 2009-2012, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 45:1-22.

NEW JERSEY STATE BOARD OF EXAMINERS OF ELECTRICAL CONTRACTORS

Joseph R Schooley

Board Chairman